

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 1, 4-6, 8-17, 20-26, and 30-32 and cancel claims 2, 3, 18, 19 as indicated below:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for routing objects over a distributed computer network, said method comprising the steps of:

designating an object which comprises a self-contained module of data and associated processing information; ~~and~~

routing said object over said distributed computer network utilizing an object oriented router, which can parse said object and apply said associated processing information contained within said object, thereby permitting said object oriented router to become self-programmed for varying data formats; and

permitting said object oriented router to construct said object by dynamically downloading said associated processing information corresponding to data received from an external data source.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~3~~ further comprising the step of:

constructing said object utilizing an end device by packaging said data and said associated processing information; and

transmitting said object to said object oriented router.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:

routing said data and said associated processing information utilizing said an object oriented router, such that said data and said associated processing

information may be utilized by a subsequent object oriented router to continue routing said data further through said distributed computer network.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said subsequent object router comprises a next-hop object oriented router.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of:

 downloading other associated processing information utilizing a received object; and

 thereafter constructing a new object.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein said object oriented router can utilize said data or said associated processing information embedded in said object to download said other set of associated processing information.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said object oriented router can utilize said data or said associated processing information embedded in said object to download said other set of associated processing information to augment current associated processing information.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said object oriented router can utilize said data or said associated processing information embedded in said object to download said other set of associated processing information to replace said current associated processing information.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 ~~±~~ wherein said associated processing information comprises at least one software method.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 ~~±~~ wherein said at least one software method is present within said object.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 ~~10~~ wherein said at least one software method is associated with said object.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 ~~1~~ wherein said object oriented router can route proprietary data.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 ~~1~~ wherein said object router can route standard data.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

- permitting said object oriented router to construct said object by dynamically downloading said associated processing information corresponding to data received from an external data source;

- constructing said object utilizing an end device by packaging said data and said associated processing information;

- transmitting said object to said object oriented router;

- routing said data and said associated processing information utilizing an object oriented router, such that said data and said associated processing information may be utilized by a subsequent object router to continue routing said data further through said distributed computer network, wherein said subsequent object oriented router comprises a next-hop object router;

- downloading other associated processing information utilizing a received object; and

- thereafter constructing a new object.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for routing objects over a distributed computer network, said system comprising:

- module for designating an object which comprises a self-contained module of data and associated processing information; and

- module for routing said object over said distributed computer network utilizing an object oriented router, which can parse said object and apply said

associated processing information contained within said object, thereby permitting said object oriented router to become self-programmed for varying data formats, wherein said object oriented router is permitted to construct said object by dynamically downloading said associated processing information corresponding to data received from an external data source.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~17~~ 19 further comprising:
module for constructing said object utilizing an end device by packaging said data and said associated processing information; and
module for transmitting said object to said object oriented router.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20 further comprising:
module for routing said data and said associated processing information utilizing ~~said an~~ object oriented router, such that said data and said associated processing information may be utilized by a subsequent object oriented router to continue routing said data further through said distributed computer network.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21 wherein said subsequent object oriented router comprises a next-hop object router.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21 further comprising:
module for downloading other associated processing information utilizing a received object; and
module for constructing a new object.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein said object oriented router can utilize said data or said associated processing information embedded in said object to download said other set of associated processing information.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24 wherein said object oriented router can utilize said data or said associated processing information embedded in said object to download said other set of associated processing information to augment current associated processing information.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24 4 wherein said object oriented router can utilize said data or said associated processing information embedded in said object to download said other set of associated processing information to replace said current associated processing information.

27. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein said associated processing information comprises at least one software method.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein said at least one software method is present within said object.

29. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein said at least one software method is associated with said object.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17 wherein said object oriented router can route proprietary data.

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17 wherein said object oriented router can route standard data.

32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17 further comprising:
module for permitting said object oriented router to construct said object by dynamically downloading said associated processing information corresponding to data received from an external data source;

module for constructing said object utilizing an end device by packaging said data and said associated processing information;

module for transmitting said object to said object oriented router;

module for routing said data and said associated processing information utilizing said an object oriented router, such that said data and said associated processing information may be utilized by a subsequent object oriented router to continue routing said data further through said distributed computer network, wherein said subsequent object oriented router comprises a next-hop object router;

module for downloading other associated processing information utilizing a received object; and

module for thereafter constructing a new object.